

Meeting Minutes

Mayor's Advisory Committee For Equal Access (MACFEA)

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Mo'ikeha Building, Meeting Room 2A-2B

4444 Rice Street, Lihu'e, HI 96766

Members Present: Rita Manriquez – State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board (STBIAB); Roberta Eiben, Consumer; Dr. Lucy Miller – DCAB (Disability and Communication Access Board) Board Member; Betty Bell, Kaua'i Federation for the Blind; Kathy English, Hawai'i Disability Rights Center; 'Ohana Home Health; Julia Hall, Aloha Independent Living Hawai'i; Kathy Sheffield, National Alliance on Mental Illness

Staff members also present: Jay Furfaro, Administrator; Lani Agoot, Administrative Specialist; Sinclair Salas-Ferguson, Deputy County Attorney.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roberta Eiben called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. with 7 members present.

INTRODUCTION OF MACFEA MEMBERS AND STAFF

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Regular Open Session Minutes of July 19, 2016

Action: Ms. Bell moved to approve the minutes as circulated. Ms. Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried 7:0.

GUEST SPEAKER

- Nick Courson – Discussion on the County's compliance with ADA for applicants during employment process and job accommodations for County employees.

Mr. Nick Courson: Good afternoon Chair, members of the committee. My name is Nick Courson. I am one of Sinclair's colleagues up in the County Attorney's office. I do a lot of the HR related and finance related stuff and as part of that I do deal with the ADA. Linda Nuland asked me come down and give a brief synopsis of what we do here in the county and if, along the way, anyone has any questions please feel free to interrupt. ADA does apply to the county where we meet the minimum requirement, it is something that federally applies to us. We look to the Job Accommodation Network website which Linda had turned me on to some time ago, it has a great section on testing accommodations. Specifically I asked HR about accommodations we have actually done and these are the three that could be recalled. We have provided additional time

for applicants. That was mostly in relation to learning disorders. We have also provided tape recorded questions. That was also related to a learning disorder.

Finally, in one case, we read the applicant the questions. That was specifically related to dyslexia and time constraints. Mostly the accommodations that we have actually granted relate to learning disorders but there are a variety of other disorders that we would certainly be familiar with and able to accommodate that resources like Jan make us aware of from time management to sitting problems, writing problems, typing problems, hearing, seeing, communicating, panic attacks, fatigue. Luckily there are very good resources on all these issues and the county is a sufficiently large entity that has the resources to accommodate that sort of thing. That is basically the accommodations we do in a nutshell, are there any questions?

Ms. Hall asked if all of the specific sections are listed on the county website to which Mr. Courson said they are not. He explained that the information he gave out is from a website called Job Accommodation Network and it is promoted by the Department of Labor on the federal side.

Ms. Manriquez asked Mr. Courson if he works in conjunction with Workwise to which Mr. Courson replied that he does not. Ms. Manriquez said that is where she was sent when she was looking for a job and that they didn't seem to know the ADA laws so she had to have her worker step in and give information. Mr. Courson asked if Workwise is a county program to which Mr. Furfaro said it is partially funded by the county however it is mostly a state program and suggested that Mr. David Longmore from Workwise might attend the meeting in April to give the committee some information regarding the program and answer any questions.

BUSINESS (NONE)

REPORTS

- ADA Coordinator's Report
- Updates/Announcements

Action: Ms. Hall moved to receive the ADA Coordinator's Report. Ms. Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried 7:0.

Ms. Eiben asked if there was any new business. Ms. Hall shared that at a previous meeting she said she would provide an update on information regarding the MS Foundation assistance. She said she found two resources, the MS Society in California and the MS Foundation in Florida and that if anyone wanted more information she would be happy to provide that to them.

Ms. English shared that that her agency hired a new attorney as of January 1st named Patty Cookson and she will be handling the Department of Education due process hearings.

The Commission Support Clerk announced that ADA Coordinator Linda Nuland was unable to secure a ride to the meeting.

Ms. Sheffield of NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, announced that they just completed a 12 week family education program in February and will probably have another one in the fall. A support group continues to meet on the 4th Wednesday monthly. She is also teaching mental health first aide and successfully taught the Kauai Police Recruits. The program is much like the Red Cross first aide except that it is for mental illness on how to recognize mental illness, how to respond, how to defuse a situation, and she hopes to hold another class this year. She approached the YWCA and they are looking at holding the class in February and she will offer another class sometime in the late spring.

Ms. Miller shared that she was part of a show called Business in Hawaii and her purpose was to explain about the role of service dogs, particularly Title 3 and private business and accommodations required by law for everyone including those who use service dogs. The segment is available on You Tube and Ms. Miller offered to email the link to anyone who was interested in viewing it. Ms. Miller shared that she has concerned regarding the lack of leadership over the past year and that she doesn't get the agenda until it is too late to add an item to it. Mr. Furfaro said that any member of the committee can ask the Chair to add an item without having to be at a formal meeting. Ms. Miller responded that she has done that in the past but never received confirmation and item was never added. Mr. Furfaro suggested that in the future she copy him, as the Administrator, and he could follow up on her request. Mr. Furfaro provided his email to the committee, jfurfaro@kauai.gov. Mr. Furfaro also suggested that the ADA Coordinator Linda Nuland be copied in the email as well since she is the county's coordinator and he has no decision making powers regarding the agenda, he can only facilitate. Ms. Miller said she would also like clarification on the committee's role in the county as an advisory board because it hasn't been discussed in many years. Mr. Furfaro suggested she talk with the Chair and perhaps the county's coordinator could provide a brief presentation when she is back on her feet.

Mr. Furfaro announced that the Native Hawaiian training for Boards and Commissions was held recently and in April a 3 month training session will begin which the members are welcome to attend. The trainings will cover Robert's Rules of Order, Parliamentary Procedures, and other various topics relating to boards and commissions meeting. He said he will email the committee once the training schedule has been secured.

Ms. Eiben asked for further announced then asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Manriquez commented that she is used to things being routine and that in the past the meetings allowed for each person to make a statement or give an agency update and asked if the meetings were no longer formatted in that way. Mr. Furfaro responded that there has been change to the meeting format and suggested to the Chair that agency updates can be done under Announcements to which Ms. Eiben agreed.

Ms. Sheffield shared that she is the President and founder of NAMI Kauai which is the National Alliance on Mental Illness. She was approached by Linda Nuland to sit on the MAFEA committee as a resource especially during times of disaster when the county would need special help. Ms. Sheffield will be attending the national convention in DC again this summer where she is provided a wealth of information. She said NAMI is growing slowly on Kauai however they are getting good press and continue to draw awareness to mental illness. She said because of the cultural differences on the island there seems to be a stigma involved in discussing mental illness so they are trying to bring awareness to the community through church groups and the press. Ms. Sheffield shared that 1 in 5 people suffer from a serious mental illness. NAMI provides free help to families to help them understand their loved ones who may be affected with some form of mental illness. NAMI will participate in the Tropic Care event again this summer and were very well received last year.

Ms. Manriquez shared that she represents the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board as well as attends the Neuro-trauma Advisory Board meetings. She said one of the members of the Neuro-trauma Board is very concerned about getting some started on every island to inform people on what to once someone has been discharged with a disablement, be it neurological or brain injury. She said once they are discharged there is no instructions given unless someone specifically asks for information and that families aren't given aftercare information when they are sent home with their newly disabled family member. Ms. Manriquez asked the committee if anyone had anything to add or any additional information on this matter to which Ms. Sheffield said that she has worked with Rochelle Bachman with the Department of Health and she has been very helpful in guiding her to other agencies and resources and that Ms. Bachman specializes in education. She added that there has been legislation passed recently in the State of Hawaii that requires a designated person must be informed with special instructions along with the patient upon discharge.

Ms. Bell shared that she represents the National Federation for the Blind and Vision Impaired and one of their focuses for the last year has been to help the blind and visually impaired not feel so left out and isolated. For example one of the members of the group took Ms. Bell and others canoeing. Ms. Bell shared that for the last few years she has the group over for Christmas and plans to continue this tradition.

Mr. Furfaro announced that the 2017 legislative session starts on Wednesday and as such, the county will be monitoring legislation that may have some impact ADA. He invited anyone who wishes to track a particular bill to contact his office.

Ms. Hall shared that represents Aloha Independent Living Hawaii which has 2 programs, the Independent Living Program for any age with any disability and the Senior's Living Community Program.

Ms. English shared that she is with the Hawaii Disability Rights Center and other than the announcement of their new attorney, Patty Cookson, she is nothing further to report on at this time.

Ms. Miller announced that a year ago the state passed a law that requires movie theaters to provide captioning in order to be accessible to everyone. The Kukui Grove Theater found a loop hole from that requirement because they don't own more than one theater complex. Since then the SPV updated the requirement which passed and goes into effect as of today which closes that loop hole and puts the Kukui Grove Theater out of compliance. Ms. Miller said she has been speaking to Jimmy Tokioka about this matter. She added that the Waimea Theater voluntarily complied even though they didn't need to because it's not a multiplex theater and they provide captioning every Sunday.

Ms. Eiben announced that she was going to move to California but I decided not to so I will be staying here permanently.

Action: Ms. Bell moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m. Ms. Manriquez seconded the motion. Motion carried 7:0.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 12:30 p.m., Mo'ikeha Building, Meeting Room 2A/2B.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Lani Agoot, Administrative Specialist

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